

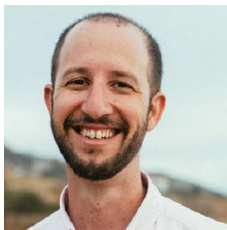
**GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series**  
**Centering Equity in Home & School**  
**Relationships: Learning From New Data and Innovative Districts**  
April 5, 2022 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

**PRESENTER BIOS**

**PRESENTER**

**Dr. Eyal Bergman Ed.L.D.**

Senior Vice President, Learning Heroes



Eyal leads Learning Heroes' efforts to support schools, districts, and others that want to build their capacity for deeper and more meaningful partnerships with families. He recently earned his Doctorate of Education Leadership (Ed.L.D.) from Harvard University, a pursuit that included partnering with Dr. Karen Mapp in co-authoring the [Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships \(Version 2\)](#). Previously, he was the founder of the Family & Community Engagement Office in the Cajon Valley Union School District. Eyal's work and views are shaped by his professional roots in community organizing and youth mentoring, as well as his personal upbringing in a bilingual Latino immigrant home.

**PRESENTER**

**Dr. Lori James-Gross, Ph.D.**

Superintendent, Unity Point School District #140



Lori James-Gross is the superintendent of Unity Point School District #140 in Southern Illinois; Unity Point is a Pre-K through 8 district of approximately 635 students serving an international population representing over 24 languages. She began her teaching career as a high school history and government teacher in Texas in the inner-city San Antonio Independent School District. Lori has spent the last 25 years in administration, including the past 20 as superintendent. She also serves as an instructor in the Educational Administration and Higher Education department at Southern Illinois University. Lori graduated from Indiana University with a BS in Secondary Education. She also received a MA in Educational Leadership from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in Educational Administration.

## **PRESENTER**

### **Dr. Sonja Brookings Santelises**

CEO, Baltimore City Public Schools



Throughout her career, Dr. Sonja Brookings Santelises has dedicated herself to the achievement of excellence in urban education. She is now in her second term as Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools), to which she was first appointed on July 1, 2016. Dr. Santelises had previously served as Chief Academic Officer for City Schools from 2010-2013. Prior to returning to Baltimore, she served for three years as vice president for K-12 policy and practice at The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization focused on closing the achievement gap experienced disproportionately by students of color from low- income families.

Dr. Santelises is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University. She holds a Master of Arts degree in education administration from Columbia University and a Doctor of Education in administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University. She has lived in Baltimore with her husband and three daughters since 2010.

## **PRESENTER**

### **Kelsey Nelson**

Senior Manager, External Relations  
Learning Heroes



A DMV native and an avid proponent of high-quality education for all children, Kelsey joins Learning Heroes with an extensive background in PR, communications and marketing, and creating/facilitating high-powered partnerships. Kelsey's experience in education includes her work at America's Promise Alliance and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. She has also worked with National Education Association as well as other education focused nonprofits in the Washington, D.C. area. Kelsey is an award-winning journalist and an adjunct college professor. Kelsey received her MPS from Georgetown University and her B.A. from the University of Maryland.

## **MODERATOR**

### **Becky Miles-Polka**

Senior Fellow, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading



As founder and President of Within Reach Consulting Services, Becky Miles-Polka serves as a trusted advisor to non-profit leaders, funders, public and private sector leaders engaged in improving the well-being of communities and the people who live in them. She brings experience in community change, population health and maternal-child health.

Becky is a Senior Consultant to the Campaign for Grade Level Reading serving as the State Lead for Iowa and serves in a number of capacities to support the national campaign, currently as a member of the Learning and Engagement Opportunities Team and as a coach to other members of state and local campaigns.

She is a Senior Fellow with Attendance Works a national and state initiative that pushes for better policy and practice to improve school attendance. She is an inaugural member of the HealthConnect Policy Fellows with the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation.

Becky is a Registered Nurse, Certified Nurse Midwife and Registered Yoga teacher.